

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by, and of Claims 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over, U.S. 4,495,167 (Nauroth et al), are respectfully traversed. As can easily be confirmed from the European Search Report filed November 20, 2002, Nauroth et al is from the same patent family as the above-discussed EP 0 078 909. The above-discussed amendment to the specification does indeed correctly describe the description in Nauroth et al with regard to Example 1 therein, i.e., a DBP absorption value of 380 g/100 g. In addition, Nauroth et al disclose a group A therein, wherein the DBP absorption value is 340-380 g/100g. However, as confirmed by Reference Example 1 herein, described in the specification at pages 6-7, the DBP absorption value reported in Nauroth et al for their Example 1 is incorrect. As confirmed in Reference Example 1, the DBP absorption value of Nauroth et al's Example 1 is only 355 g/100 g. Indeed, Applicants respectfully submit that a DBP absorption value of at least 380 g/100 g cannot be obtained by the process disclosed in Nauroth et al.

The table below tabulates the times of the steps in Nauroth et al's Example 1 and an examples according to the present invention:

	<b>Invention</b>	<b>Nauroth</b>
adding waterglass and sulfuric acid together	13 min	13 min
interrupting the precipitation	90 min	90 min
<b>adding waterglass and sulfuric acid together</b>	<b>34 min</b>	<b>43 min</b>
total precipitation time	137 min	146 min
<b>final silica concentration</b>	<b>38 – 42 g/l</b>	<b>46 g/l</b>

As the table shows, the second precipitation step for the present invention was shortened about 21% from Nauroth et al, resulting in a shorter overall precipitation time and

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about 9-18% overall lower silica concentration. These modifications assure DBP absorption value of at least 380 g/100 g, which is neither disclosed nor suggested by Nauroth et al.

For all the above reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejections over prior art be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 10-13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, is respectfully traversed. Indeed, the rejection is now moot in view of the above-discussed amendment. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that it be withdrawn.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability of the subject matter of Claims 5-9. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the presently-pending claims in this application are now in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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